

The Royal Horticultural Society

Lily Group Newsletter

Spring 2014

www.rhslilygroup.org



Editorial

I heard a very welcome sound the other day, bees buzzing in the blossom from my neighbour's garden. Spring is almost here and very welcome too after the wettest winter on record.

The response to the email trial run of the Autumn Newsletter to our overseas members was extremely positive and we are therefore extending this trial to all our members who have provided us with email addresses. The benefits of this method are enormous for our Group in terms of cost saving and speed of delivery. For those who do not have access to email or who prefer to receive paper copies, please be assured that you will continue to receive our Newsletters by post.

Our first visit this year takes us to Hampshire on 26th April to visit Sandhill Farm.

Something not to be missed, Bernard Tickner has invited us to his 90th birthday celebrations at Fullers Mill in Suffolk on 12th July. Do read John Weeks' article on this wonderful garden and I think you will agree that we are in for a treat.

Tim Whiteley is holding his annual Lily Festival and Plant Fair on 20th July. I do hope that you will be able to join us on one if not all these dates.

Then we are planning an exciting new venture for 2015 - a trip to north-east Turkey to see lilies growing in the wild - this trip promises to be the chance of a lifetime for lily lovers. Details follow below for all these trips.

An admission, this Newsletter has been prepared with the expertise of Gary Davison, one of our members, who fortuitously for us, is also a digital print specialist and offered to help. I am enormously grateful as he has not only saved me hours of fiddling if not fumbling on the keyboard. He has produced an excellent finished product. I hope you like it.

Irene Hopton Scott
lilynewsletter@gmail.com

Cover: *Lilium* 'Black Beauty' bred by Leslie Woodriff in 1958 growing in Bill and Carol Doreen's garden in Levin, New Zealand. Photograph by Nuala Sterling

Chairman's Letter

The Lily Group membership is spread around the world with a third of our members from overseas. My February visit to New Zealand reinforced my memory of this beautiful country and its startling scenery. It has large areas of well-draining alluvial gravel ideal for growing lilies. Now virtually the end of the lily season the NZ Lily Society meetings are complete but visits to a few gardens still provided interest. See NZ Gardens Trust.

Janet Blair's lovely garden at Lake Hayes, developed over the past 35 years, had choice lilies growing between shrubs and trees planted for the essential shelter from the southerlies in the windy and exposed valleys of *The Remarkables* and *Coronet* mountains. A range of oak, chestnut, poplar, ash and *Eucalyptus* form the main structure with swathes of *Sorbus*, *Cornus*, *Viburnum*, laurel, fruit trees and roses interspersed. Box and privet contain the vegetable garden, herbs and borders where restrained colour gives cohesion.

I visited Alan Trott's garden in Ashburton developed and designed over 40 years. The new red border is edged with *Berberis* 'Little Favourite' and planted with dark red dahlias 'Bishop of Llandaff' and

'Ayrilies', *Helianthus* 'Moulin Rouge'. The columnar *Berberis* 'Helmond Pillar', *L.* 'Black Beauty' and asiatic *L.* 'Landine' are interspersed with hollyhocks, *Cosmos*, poppies and *Monarda*. purple *Sambucus*, *Acer palmatum* and *Fagus sylvatica* form the backdrop and finally creative wire ornaments introduce novelty. It made a bold and striking statement - see photograph in a later section.

On the commercial side Bill and Carol Doreen who had created *Lilies International* in 30 acres of fertile well drained land in the valley near Levin are just approaching their 9th decade. They had retired to a Masonic Village villa proudly showing me his E.H.Wilson medal awarded by NALS in 1998 (see photograph in centre pages) and their transplanted *L. regale*, and *L.* 'Black Beauty' 1958 bred by American friend Leslie Woodriff. The estate is bounded by mature *Ginkgo* trees planted by him when an apprentice at Massey. Their successors at Mt Somers no longer grow for the cut flower trade but just bulbs and potted lilies. That challenge is taken up by Blewden's at Cambridge in the North Island importing huge containers of bulbs from Holland, a journey of 8 weeks at sea at 1.5 °C.

Looking forward to our 2014 Programme, do put the dates of our

spring visit to Andrew McIndoe's garden on 26th April and Bernard Tickner's celebration on July 12th in your diary. The Bulb Auction this year will be held at Wisley on Sunday 16 November.

The very successful 2013 Bulb Auction held in Birmingham is reported elsewhere and thanks go to Richard and Harris as auctioneers. The AGM included the presentation of the Lyttel cup to Dr Pat Huff by the outgoing President of the RHS Mrs Elizabeth Banks whose address gave much support to the Lily Group in its new relationship with the RHS.

The 2013-2014 seed list is dedicated to Alan Hooker who built it up over many years maintaining the essential contacts with our donors which contributes to the amazing variety. The distribution to members will be drawing to a close as you read this Newsletter but is a vital part of the Lily Group. George Battle has ably managed the list and Pat Huff the sorting and distribution. Over 800 seeds are listed, 367 in the IX horticultural divisions of *Lilium*, 51 *Liliaceae*, 187 bulbous species, 207 of other species and hybrids. What an achievement this is at 50p per packet.

The review of existing AGM (Awards of Garden Merit) for Lilies was completed by the Lily Group

and submitted to the RHS via the Bulb Committee. The new Chairman of the Bulb Committee, Jan Pennings, from Holland is aware that the question of recommendation of future *Lilium* AGMs and proposal for trials will be the next task. Whilst the two committees ponder that task members might like to make their own suggestions (born of wide gardening experience) taking into account performance, ease of culture, longevity and availability. See the RHS website or report in the Garden February 2013. Comments by email or letter are welcome.

The plans for our digitised Lily Yearbook and *Lilies and Related Plants* 1932-2014 are to produce the searchable DVD this year now that another splendid edition of *Lilies and Related Plants 2013-14* has been produced by Alan Mitchell. It will be available to all members of the Lily Group at £30 per disc. To assist with the initial production it would be helpful if members could let me have expressions of interest.

Our annual subscription is being raised for the first time in 14 years. It will rise to £15 in January 2015. Those of you with Standing Orders will be contacted by Rose and Colin in due course.

When you update your subscription or change contact details please

make sure your email address is correct and is matched to your name. Where available our use of email communication for the Newsletter and Seed List has enabled a much reduced postage cost and for many parts of the world a speedier delivery!

We are delighted to announce that the Lyttel Cup has been awarded to Richard Hyde for 2014. My thanks to all the committee and the members for their support.

Nuala Sterling

Vermont House

EAST BOLDRE

Hants

SO42 7WX

chairman@rhslilygroup.org

Programme of events 2014

If you are thinking of joining us on any of these events, it would be helpful if you could notify the Secretary, Caroline Boisset on 01225 864808 or secretary@rhslilygroup.org

A Spring venture into Hampshire

Saturday 26 April 2014

Members will be meeting for lunch at Longstock Park for our annual spring get together and the

opportunity of visiting the exceptional nursery in the walled garden and buying some plants. Longstock Park is part of the Leckford Estate and is situated five miles south of the A303 at Andover on the A3057 just outside Stockbridge.

SO20 6EH

www.longstocknursery.co.uk.

In the afternoon we will head south to Sandhill Farm the home of Andrew and Rosamond McIndoe for a guided tour of their 2-acre garden. Andrew is the charismatic Managing Director of Hillier Nurseries and Garden Centres; he combines the day job with being an author, lecturer, broadcaster and keen gardener. This year the company celebrates 150 years in the nursery business and is still at the top of the industry, having won 68 Chelsea Gold medals. Andrew has been gardening all his life, starting with an interest in orchids and becoming an exceptional plantsman. He and his wife have developed their naturalistic garden on a north-east, sloping site over the last 13 years or so and maintain it themselves. It includes a meadow, informal beds of shrubs, trees and perennials, a formal area, water and some vegetables.

The afternoon will end with refreshments. The cost of the visit is £7, inclusive of tea.

Sandhill Farm
Newtown Road
SHERFIELD ENGLISH SO51 6JV
10 miles south of Stockbridge along
the A3057.

Summer celebrations in Suffolk

Saturday 12 July 2014

Bernard Tickner has been a member of the Lily Group for nearly 50 years and has generously invited us, in his 90th year to a buffet lunch prior to a tour of his wonderful garden at Fullers Mill. It is a real plantsman's garden, extending over 7 acres along the banks of the River Lark with woodland as part of the framework and Bernard has built over the last half-century a garden that really does have year-round interest and makes use of plant form and texture as well as colour to maximum effect. The lilies will be at their best for our visit. (See the end of the events programme for a full description of the garden).

Fullers Mill is 5 miles north-west of
BURY ST EDMUNDS

IP28 6HD

www.fullersmillgarden.org.uk.

See the website for garden description and details of public opening times.

Lily Festival and Plant Fair

Sunday 20th July 2014 11am

Evenley Wood Garden

EVENLEY

Northamptonshire

NN13 5SH

info@evenleywoodgarden.co.uk

Lily Group Annual Meeting and Annual Bulb Auction 2014

Sunday 16 November 2014

The 2014 Annual Meeting and Bulb Auction will be held in the Hillside Centre at Wisley. The provisional programme is to hold the Annual Meeting at 11am and we will then open to the public at 12.30 with the Bulb Auction starting at 1.30pm. We will have lily specialists to answer questions and various displays. Full details will be published in the autumn newsletter.

Overseas trip - Turkey 2015

RHS Lily Group Trip to Turkey to see lilies in the wild.

We are planning a 14 day tour to North East Turkey travelling by day by Ford Transit mini bus and staying in hotels overnight. The tour will be guided by Chris Gardener who has extensive botanical experience in Turkey to visit sites to see numerous lilies growing in the wild including *Lilium akkusianum*, *monadelphum*, *ciliatum*, *ponticum* and *kesselringianum*. In addition the other rich native flora should also be looking at its best at this time of year.

Provisional dates: 21st June to 3rd July 2015.

Provisional costs: £2,250 per person excluding flights.

To register your interest and to receive a draft itinerary please complete the separate form sent with this Newsletter and return it to:

Duncan Coombs

Holly Bank
15 Minge Lane
UPTON UPON SEVERN,
Worcestershire
WR8 ONN.
dcoombs@warkscol.ac.uk

Fullers Mill Garden

Carved from poplar plantation, set around a reclaimed millpond and extending between the banks of the River Lark and Culford Stream, Fullers Mill Garden will have been known to some members for half a century, as an atmospheric and horticulturally distinguished private garden, one of Suffolk' finest.

The creation of Bernard Tickner, the garden has of late been administered by a Trust and, in 2013 was gifted to Perennial, the Gardeners Royal Benevolent Society, guaranteeing the foreseeable future of its seven peaceful acres and a welcome for the visiting public, who will find a garden, in Bernard's words, immeasurably better maintained than ever before, by an expanded team of gardeners led by Head Gardener Annie Dellbridge and augmented by nigh on a score of devoted volunteers. The Bothy houses offices, a tea-room (with fabled cakes) and reception area. A Friends Group hosts a growing programme of events.

Much indeed has happened in the last five years but the spirit of this tranquil *hortus inclusus*, the "wild place by water" that Bernard sought and found in 1958, is undisturbed. Moving among the shrubs

and hardwood trees of the Top Garden or over the bridge, drawn down into the folds of the Low Garden, the impression is of soft harmony: winding grass paths and rounded beds, hummocks and fountains of foliage, gentle rise and fall, muted shades and natural transitions. Satisfying vistas, orderliness without order, art concealing art. There is a controlling vision but it is one that begins by putting the best plant in the best place with space to develop naturally, and which, when looking to add to the texture that has been created, goes literally with the flow.

So to those best plants. The established planting strands within the garden may be familiar from past visits. Snowdrops bloom from October to spring (although in 2011 *Galanthus reginae-olgae* was in flower in August!). A fine collection of lilies opens in succession, the martagons giving way to *L. regale* and to charmers like *L. 'Lake Tulare'* with the most delicate pink flowers. Autumn hosts drifts of colchicum, among them *Colchicum 'Waterlily'* and *C. speciosum*, with the grandee among the forms *C. speciosum 'Album'* last to appear. There are collections of shrubby willows from Norway, alliums and irises, beds of hellebores and around seventy varieties of *Euphorbia*. Against this changing tapestry individual specimens and plant

groupings delight in season. Two tiny *Narcissus*, *bulbocodium* and *cyclamineus* are dainty treasures in the spring grass. At the other end of the scale, in moist conditions under the high shade of the cricket-bat willows, *Cardiocrinum giganteum yunnanense* imagines it is in the Himalayas and this summer developed five stems of chartreuse lily flowers before its destined immolation. The mill-pond is always of interest as it gathers the reflections of its marginals - *Primula japonica* and *Darmera peltata*, *Gunnera* and *Rodgersia* and the showy skunk cabbage *Lysichiton* - or, in winter sun, the intense orange Chinese lanterns of *Physalis alkekengi*. There are fine trees and larger shrubs - a huge and joyous yellow *Hamamelis*, a splendid *Ceanothus* in the Outer Quandary (one of the more open areas of the garden) which provides a cerulean backdrop for spring flowers, the impressive stand of *Betula 'Silver Grace'*, a possible *pendula-utilis* cross which originated in the garden and offers straight white stems with a more delicate canopy than the form *jaquemontii*. Then there is the curious toothwort - but in truth the list of potential favourites one can discover at Fullers Mill is endless; not least because the Garden - and Bernard - never stand still. There is always something happening - a new opportunity to be taken, a new enthusiasm to pursue.

In the first category would be the development in the last few years of the Strip, an open piece of grassland between Culford Stream and Mill Deep, the privately owned lake that closes the view at the bottom of the garden. To the Beth Chatto Bed, where *Euphorbia* and *Bergenia* underplant a specimen of *Betula utilis* var. *occidentalis* ‘Buddha’ grafted from a tree in the Mount Everest Forest Park, has been added “The Patch”; this larger bed, developing apace, brings together the different *Dipelta* forms with plants such as *Romneya coulteri*, cistus, *Berkheya purpurea*, *Penstemon* ‘Connie’s Pink’ and *Ageratina athissima* ‘Chocolate’. All flourish around a very young Valonia Oak, *Quercus macrolepis*, growing from an acorn collected in Crete (and in truth with some way still to grow). And the latest enthusiasm, *Arisaema*. Bearing out the words of Graham Stuart Thomas - ‘*Intriguing even if not of overpowering beauty they prove fascinating to their devotees*’. Bernard has added several more species to the garden this year. Besides *A. speciosum*, *A. tortuosum* and *A. candidissimum*, you can now find *A. flavum*, the tall *A. exapendiculatum* and the similar species *Pinellia pedatisecta* (cut like a bird’s foot!).

John Weeks

Chairman, Friends of Fullers Mill Garden

Seed Distribution Winter/Spring 2014

A determined shift towards distributing the Seed List by email was made this year. Not only is this quicker & cheaper than sending out paper copies but it is much fairer too – members from Tayside to Tasmania received the list on the same day. Only a tiny handful of UK members requested a paper copy – the PDF version has been thoroughly embraced.

Over twice as many Seed Lists were sent out this year as compared with 2013 which has, of course, meant increased work for Pat Huff in filling orders. The seed list appears to be in good health.

Notable features this year are:

- Species lily seed accounted for 21% of total contributions
- Strength across most of the other eight divisions of lilies
- An abundance of rarities among non-liliaceae seed
- The geographical spread of donors - 71 donors from 17 different countries.

One plea to members: please let Rose Voelcker and I know when you change your email address. Having

an up-to-date email address is so important nowadays. If you have only recently gone online and haven't yet given us your email address, please let us have it now.

George Battle

gbattle7@btinternet.com

Note from our Seed List Manager

2014 is shaping up to be a bumper year for the distribution of seed donations. The contributors were generous in their offerings, and the purchasers similarly extravagant in their requests. 50+ packet orders are not uncommon. This is wonderful, because it means these fabulous seeds are being grown by lots of our incredibly green-fingered members. Such orders do, however, take some time to fill, so it's been averaging 4 weeks from the receipt of the order to its despatch and I do appreciate everyone's patience. I am filling each request in order of its receipt - no queue-jumping! - so those that got in at the very start had the pick of the crop. Even now, however, nearing the end of the order period, there are plenty of goodies to go round. I will give a complete report in the next Newsletter.

Pat Huff

Lilygroupseeds@gmail.com

RHS Lily Group Bulb Auction 26 October 2013

The autumnal sun was trying to shine, but it was neither windy nor raining when I got in my car and headed north on the motorway from Southwest England to Birmingham, the venue for this year's annual Lily Group Bulb Auction.

This is always a popular venue, particularly for our members who live in the Midlands and further north. Several members had not only emailed me to say that they were coming, but together with others had sent lists of the bulbs they were bringing, and Nuala, our Chairman, had received a large parcel of bulbs from Vincent Graham, a Scottish member who was unfortunately unable to come, so it promised to be an interesting event.

Nearly 30 members had travelled from various corners of England and Switzerland, for this popular and enjoyable event in the Calendar. It is an ideal opportunity for members to meet and exchange banter on lily growing and breeding and to learn about species and cultivars that are often unusual and It is also part of the core purpose of the Group, that of conservation of lilies; the more the Lily Group is able to ensure that species and

cultivars are grown in different places the more likely they are to survive in cultivation.

Harris Howland and Richard Hyde, both members of the Lily Group Committee and lily growers extraordinaire, took on the role of auctioneers with much style and fun both of them bidding at times for some of the lots that had taken their fancy.

151 lots of bulbs were kindly donated by 12 different contributors for which the Lily Group are as ever extremely grateful. The list is a wonderful array of treasures some of which went for as much as £15 a bulb but other lots could be picked up for a modest 50p.

There was something for everyone; some members showed great restraint, others were clearly getting carried away! New members including Elizabeth Banks, recently retired President of the Royal Horticultural Society, who had presented the Lyttel Cup to Pat Huff and Valencia Hibbert, was another member who having only recently discovered the delights of lilies, got into the swing and bid for several lots.

Second generation William Allott had come with his father Andrew

and six weeks old Ian, had come with his mum Ruth and grandfather Tony Corless amid speculation that he may be the first third generation member and displace his mother as youngest Lily Group member (Ruth joined when she was just five years old).

All the proceeds totalling £664 go to the Group funds.

This year's Bulb Auction will be held at RHS Garden Wisley on Sunday 16 November 2014 at 1.30pm.

Present: Alisdair Aird, Andrew Allott, William Allott, Elizabeth Banks, Caroline Boisset, Richard Bunce, Ruth Corless, Tony Corless, Gary Davison, Tony Dixon, Valencia Hibbert, Irene Hopton-Scott, Harris & Annie Howland, Pat Huff, Richard Hyde, Sarah Hyde, Stephanie Martin, Dennis Moul, Margaret Owen, Nuala Sterling, Madeleine Tinson, Pontus Wallstén, Tim Whiteley, Richard & Leigh Woods, Cynthia & Terry Young

List of bulbs sold

From Margaret Owen

1. *Lilium rosthornii* x *L. henryi* (ex Edrom – better/more amenable than *henryi*)
2. *Lilium pyrenaicum rubrum* (orange, not yellow)
3. 'Oliver Wyatt' x 'Oliver Wyatt' reflexed yellow
4. *L. martagon* 'Inshriach Ivory'
5. *L. martagon* 'Inshriach Rose'
6. *Nerine* 'Quinton Wells' (from National Collection)
7. *Lilium lankongense* (stoloniferous form)

From Terry Young

8. *Lilium davidii willmottiae*

From Harris Howland

9. Tetra white trumpet/bowl yellow throat, grown in the open, strong grower and increaser.
10. Green trumpet x *L. longiflorum*
11. Green Ryrube* x green trumpet
12. Yellow trumpet picotee x similar, Griesbach
13. Ryrube* 375 09-10
14. Ryrube* 450 09-10
15. Ryrube* 340 09-10
16. Ryrube* 371 09-10

17. Ryrube* 333 09-10
18. Ryrube* 365 09-10
19. Ryrube* 348 09-10
20. Orienpet 4n 342 09-10
21. Griesbach pink x Griesbach pink picotee 264 10-11
22. Tetra purple picotee 860 09-10
23. Tall growing trumpets 290 10-11
24. Tetra White Henryi
25. *L. leucanthum* var. *centifolium* x deep magenta trumpet
26. Tetra white pink picotee
27. White trumpet x Ove 22 raised in Holland
28. Tetra white bowl, raised by Dr Robert Griesbach USA; grown in the open, very strong grower and increaser.
29. Green trumpet 341 06-07
30. Griesbach light yellow x Griesbach pink picotee 261 10-11

*Ryrube' is the name given a whole group of lilies derived from a cross between *Lilium henryi* and *L. rubellum* hence the last three letters from *henryi* and four from *rubellum*. They are very vigorous.

From Prab Prabhu

31. 'Orange Electric'
32. 'Blackout' (A)
33. 'Tropic Diamond' (LA)
34. 'Kentucky' (LA)
35. 'Party Diamond' (pale pink LA)
36. 'Rosella's Dream' (A)
37. 'Cote d'Azur' (A)
38. 'Salmon Classic' (A)

39. 'Lombardia' (pink oriental)
40. 'Red Carpet' (red Asiatic)
41. 'Anastasia' (OT)
42. 'Casablanca' (white oriental)
43. 'Loretta' (Tango)
44. 'Original Love' (red LA hybrid)
45. 'Muscadet' (O)
46. 'Cherbourg' (O)
47. 'Orania' (melon orange orienpet)
48. *Lilium auratum* 'Gold Band'
49. *L. lancifolium* (bulbs + bulblets)
50. Tall maroon Asiatic
51. Dwarf Asiatic yellow
('Connecticut King' hybrid)
52. Yellow Asiatic
53. *Lilium longiflorum*
54. Tall Orange LA
55. Red Asiatic
56. Short growing LA (Peter Schenk –
'Salmon Classic')
57. Tall Yellow Asiatic
58. Dark yellow Asiatic
59. Novona' (creamy white Asiatic)
60. Orienpet (mystery, from 2009
LGBA)
61. Dark red LA Hybrid
62. Short Asiatic orange
63. 'Everest' (O)

From Richard Woods

64. 'Hiawatha'
65. 'Pearl Jennifer'
66. *Lilium formosanum* 'White Crane'
67. *Lilium rosthornii* x *henryi*
68. *Lilium maculatum*
69. 'Scheherazade' (good lily, 7-8ft
tall)
70. 'Leslie Woodriff'

71. 'Black Beauty' – ordinary one
72. 'Silk Road' x Tetra trumpet
73. 'Red Sensation' (very dark red)
74. *Lilium leucanthum centifolium*
75. *Lilium tsingtauense*

From Tim Whiteley

76. *Lilium pardalinum*
77. *Lilium pyrenaicum* (yellow one)

From Vincent Graham

78. *L. henryi* [ChenYi sp4] exV168 x
rosthornii (2006 seed list) [SM, GD
£2]
79. *L. davidii* ex.S-37 (2006 Seed list)
80. CA5-5 ['Brauner Bar' x 'Trogon']
A Brauner cross with Warren
Summer's 'Trogon'.
(Expect pastel seedlings with
wonderful inflorescences)
81. "Dimension" burgundy-black
Asiatic
(unscented)
82. *Lilium longiflorum* ('White Heaven',
highly scented)
83. *Lilium longiflorum* ex. S-87 (2006
seed list)
84. 'Silk Road' x tetraploid purple
trumpet (Lykkegaard, ex.468, 2007
seed list)
85. Bulblets ex. 356 (2010 list)
86. Bulblets from 'Beverley Hills'
(yellow OT)
87. Bulblets tetra white trumpet ex.
311(2010 list)
88. Bulblets orange orienpet
ex.343 (2010 list)
89. 'Black Beauty'

From Nuala Sterling

90. *Lilium candidum* – pot
91. *Nerine undulata*

From Tony & Ruth Corless

92. 'Leslie Woodriff'
(ex The Lily Garden)
93. *Lilium lancifolium* 'Flore Pleno'(so far has been good at producing bulbils but not flowered; NALS seed)
94. 'Cocktail Twins' (ex W H Hyde)
95. Griesbach polyploid (seed from Charlie Kroell 2008)
96. "Charlie's Aurelian" (seed from CK, white)
97. 'Suncrest' (Peter Schenk LA)
98. 'Original Love' (LG Bulb Auction c. 2006)
99. 'Black Beauty' (big bulb)
100. *Lilium grayi* (not flowered with us yet; hope someone will do better with this offset - Westonbirt Plants)
101. *Lilium lancifolium* 'Splendens' (so far has been very good at producing bulbils but not flowered; Auchgourish botanic garden – 4 med. bulbs, 4 sm. bulbs)
102. 'Pizzazz' (The Lily Garden)
103. 'Karen North' (Edrom)
104. 'Pan' (Alan Mitchell)
105. 'Peggy North' (Edrom)
106. 'Barbara North' (Edrom)
107. 'Eros' (The Lily Garden)
108. 'Rosemary North' (Edrom)
109. 'Theseus' (LG Bulb Auction 2009)

From Pontus Wallstén

110. *Lilium martagon* 'Theodor Haber'
111. *Lilium nepalense* yellow form
112. *Lilium nepalense* normal greenish yellow form
113. *Lilium wallichianum*
114. *Lilium martagon* 'Larissa'
115. *Lilium sulphureum* bulbils
116. *Lilium speciosum* rubrum
117. *Lilium lankongense* stoloniferous form, several small bulbs
118. *Lilium* 'Connecticut Yankee'
119. *Lilium* 'Blackburn'
120. *Lilium auratum*
121. 'Nutmegger' (asiatic hybrid) – a very rare hybrid bred in 1957 from *Lilium lancifolium flaviflorum*; it is, it seems, also very tolerant to wet.
122. *Narcissus recurvus*
123. *Tulipa sylvestris* (good, strong growing Dutch commercial stock and not the wild form producing stolons at expense of flowering.
124. *Tulipa humilis* 'Albocaerulea'
125. *Fritillaria uva-vulpis*
126. *Leucojum* 'September Snow'

From Alisdair Aird

127. *Lilium duchartrei*
128. *Lilium leichtlinii* 'Iwashimizu' (the pure yellow-flowered form, fertile as raised from seed collected by Katsuro Arakawa)
129. *Lilium lijiangense*
130. *Lilium longiflorum* fertile as raised from seed collected by Katsuro

Arakawa in the Meadow of Waijii, Iejima Island, Okinawa [NS, HH, RH, GD, RB £3]

131. *Lilium pardalinum* subsp. *pardalinum*
132. *Lilium pardalinum* subsp. *vollmeri* ex DF89151 2nd generation plants; original wild seed collection by Derek Fox in 1989
133. *Lilium pardalinum* subsp. *wigginsii*
134. *Lilium parryi* (nice scent)
135. *Lilium rosthornii*
136. "*Lilium taliense* var. *kaichen*" This is the recently discovered species allied to *L. taliense* and *L. duchartrei*, a good strong-growing garden plant, given the above nickname by the late John Lykkegaard; sometimes misnamed as *Lilium xanthellum*
137. *Lilium x chrystalense* A natural hybrid between *L. parvum* and one of the *L. pardalinum* subspecies, discovered a few years ago near Lake Tahoe by Barbara Small; I think of it as "Small's Tall", as it's like a larger-growing better form of *L. parvum*! Seed-raised plants are slightly variable in colouring but pretty uniform in size and shape, suggesting that the strain has been established in the wild for many generations, and is probably evolving into a new species.

From Madeleine Tinson

138. *Lilium speciosum* f. *uchide*
139. *Lilium speciosum* f. *uchide*

140. *Lilium speciosum* var. *clivorum* (ExDr Waister bulb)
141. 'Eileen' (North Hybrid)
142. 'Karen' (North Hybrid)
143. 'Achilles' (North Hybrid)
144. 'Ariadne' (North Hybrid)
145. 'Eros' (North Hybrid)
146. 'Orestes' (North Hybrid)

From an unknown source

'African Queen'
Tetraploid LA
'Tiger Babies'
Lilium henryi
Turk's cap Asiatic

Purchasers: Andrew & William Allott, Elizabeth Banks, Caroline Boisset, Richard Bunce, Gary Davison, Tony Dixon, Valencia Hibbert, Irene Hopton-Scott, Harris Howland, Pat Huff, Richard Hyde, Stephanie Martin, Dennis Moul, Margaret Owen, Nuala Sterling, Madeleine Tinson, Pontus Wallstén, Tim Whiteley, Richard Woods, Cynthia & Terry Young.

A Horticultural Simpleton's adventure with the Pollen Exchange

Tony Dixon

I am not much of a gardener. My main interest is growing things I can eat. I find flowers a bit of a chore. With one important exception, the lily. I love lilies more than all the other flowers put together.

When I started to get serious about growing lilies, about seven or eight years ago, I started off by buying a 'Collection of Species Lilies' from Thompson and Morgan. This was a bad mistake which I will not make again. The collection consisted of five bulbs each of *L. auratum*, *leichtlinii*, *pardalinum giganteum* and *pumilum*. Or so they claimed. The only one that did what it was supposed to do was *L. leichtlinii*. *L. auratum* performed well, but did not have the nice red spots I had been looking forward to. I felt suspicious of the bulbs labelled *L. pumilum* from the start, as they were the biggest bulbs in the box, although they should have been the smallest.

When they grew a metre tall and flowered orange, my suspicions were confirmed.

I have only very recently found out that they are probably *L. henryi*.

Strangest of all was *L. pardalinum giganteum*. They looked promising enough when they first showed their shoots above the ground, but then they just stopped growing. One brave plant grew to about six inches but the rest did no more than poke their noses above the soil. The following year they did better, but not much. It was several years before I got a flower. I suppose I should have thought of blaming myself, but as all the others were doing fine, I blamed the bulbs. I decided to wait until I got flowers on two separate plants, then pollinate them and start again from seed. A couple of years later, I did get two flowers, but no seeds came, nor the following year. In the meantime, I had been reading about the Pollen Exchange. Although I felt a little daunted by the prospect, I decided it was probably the only way of getting anything from my *L. pardalinum* bulbs (notice that I have dropped the 'giganteum' part - they never grew gigantic). Nuala Sterling guided me through the process. Then I e-mailed Harris Howland who promptly posted me some dried anthers from his own plants (thank you, Harris).

I have to admit that I didn't think the dried anthers looked all that promising, especially as they appeared to have been squashed flat by Royal Mail's sorting

machinery. But anyway, using a fine artist's sable brush I teased off some of the dried pollen and transferred it to the waiting stigmas of my flowers. It wasn't long before the seed pods started to fatten up and eventually I got three pods stuffed with promising-looking seeds. Some of them are in pots already, some have gone off to the Seed Exchange for others to try. Now I have started drying and saving pollen from my own lilies (it's easy) in case anyone else needs it for theirs. If you have a singleton lily, or cloned lilies that won't pollinate each other, and you want to get seed from them, the Pollen Exchange may be the answer to your problem. Or maybe you want to try making a hybrid where you only have one of the parents. Even if you don't want to do any of those things, but you have an unusual or difficult-to-obtain species lily, please consider drying a few anthers and putting them in your fridge. They may be just what someone else is waiting for. Nuala Sterling is waiting for your e-mail.

So if you have been hesitating to join in with this project, I hope you will give it a try. It worked for me.

Update from Madeleine Tinson and her tireless search for the North Hybrids - Mylnefield Lilies

Madeleine Tinson

Back in October, when I started to turnout all my lilies to harvest the bulblets, it became clear that at last I have enough stock, to feel safe enough to sell on or give away some of the more prolific Norths. I have been made aware of how easy it is to be bullied into selling when not in a position to have enough stock left one's self in case of a disaster.

I had been approached by several growers who want to buy Norths. Susan Band, a new member to the Lily Group, was mentioned in the latest *Lilies & Related Plants* by Alan Mitchell. She has a very good reputation for Pitcairn Alpines, and I will do all I can to see she is supplied with as many Norths as possible in the future. I also supplied some to the *Explorers Garden* in Pitlochry, so have made a start *Plant Heritage* has asked me to host another special Open Day, but on reflection, I have decided to hold off for a while. I have asked to consider taking some Norths to Hampton Court Flower Show in the future as part of *Plant Heritage's* display there and that is something I would be up for!

Though I am sure it will be just as nerve racking as my Open Day. As a result of the publicity for last year's Open Day I have been approached by *Gardeners' World* to consider being included in a possible programme this year if they come up to Scotland!!

Oxford Scientific has asked me for some background information on the Norths. It seems they make scientific programmes for the BBC. However so far nobody has got back with a commitment so I will wait and see.

I have sent an article to NALS, '*In Search of North Hybrids*' which is being considered for publication. They have always taken a very keen interest in all things 'North', and there are many growers of them. I have seen *L.* 'Karen North', and *L.* 'Eros' win at their annual shows.

I have been doing a deal of reading of old Lily Group Newsletters given to me by Peter Waister and came across an appeal made by George Battle for the conservation of Derek Fox hybrids. *L.* 'Eureka', was registered by Derek. George has been very helpful and I am now in contact with a German grower and friend Holger Kuehne. This has led to contact with Norgart Martschinke, who may have some Norths to sell

which were given to her by Chris North!! Once again it's not what you know but who you know. (Did I see her name in the list of seed contributors? Roy Carter has offered to give me North number 536/4, I hopefully will come down to the Lily Group AGM at Wisley North's development notes it is said to be 'pale mauve with ochre *lankongense* hybrid'.

Peter Waister has very kindly given me a few bulbs of *L.* 'Hannah North', but he cannot verify that they really are her. I have seen them in flower and they look, as they should, white. It seems they came from Alan Mitchell who thought they might have been *L.* 'Adonis', hence my e-mail to him asking for their provenance, so the jury is out. So I am happy to say the search goes on and the collection appears to be in good heart. I have several bookings from groups to see the collection in July.

I am having a fence put along the back of my garden and another raised bed put in to accommodate my ever-expanding stock.

Requests for help

Duncan Donald has suggested that the Lily Group may be able to help Amanda Banfield who is currently an undergraduate student of Horticulture at Northampton University. She is looking for information on the plant introductions by Oliver Wyatt. She says that Oliver Wyatt's work with *Galanthus* is proving quite straight forward but she is keen to locate any surviving lilies. She is particularly looking for hybrids which have been named with local association. *L.* 'Bixworth', *L.* 'Kelmars', *L.* x *burbankii*, *L.* 'Yellow Maid', *L.* 'Auburn Maid', *L.* 'Bridesmaid', *L.* 'Country Maid', *L.* 'Diary Maid', and *L.* 'Oliver Wyatt'. She has recently visited the grounds of Maidwell Hall and says that the understanding is that none of these still grow there. If you can help please contact Amanda directly:

amandabanfield@btinternet.com

One of our Lily Group members – **Raymond Hudson** – asks if anyone can tell him how he can produce tetraploid lilies by treating diploids with colchicines. What part of the *Colchicum Crocus* is used and how? He understands that colchicine is very poisonous so what precautions should he take? Many thanks in advance to anyone who can help

him.

Please reply directly to Raymond Hudson at:

2 Brae Road
Winscombe
Somerset,
BS25 1LN Tel. 01934 844546

Peter Schenk would very much like to ask the help of any of our members growing *L. mackliniae* and all types of *Nomocharis*. He is looking for some material from these two groups of plants. So if you can help please contact Peter directly on

peterl22@hotmail.com

Lilies & Related Plants

Lilies and Related Plants 2013-2014 seems to have been well received. I would like to thank all of the Lily Group and non-Lily Group members who contributed to this publication. I would also like to encourage the readership of this Newsletter to put pen to paper or fingers to keyboards to assist with the production of the next issue of *Lilies and Related Plants*. It might appear that there is plenty of time until the next issue, but I'm a great believer in the old adage, "there is no time like the present".

Alan Mitchell
massmitch@tiscali.co.uk

Subscriptions

Dear Lily Group Members,

As you will have read in the latest *Lilies and Related Plants* it was decided to increase the annual subscription to £15 from next year 2015. For those members who have Standing Orders, Colin Pope and I will be contacting you individually with instructions.

There are still some members who have not paid their subscriptions for this year 2014. They will be receiving a final reminder from me.

Best wishes

Rose

Rose Voelcker

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Tim Whiteley



Elizabeth Banks presents the Lyttel Cup to Pat Huff

Advance Notice of an exciting new venture for 2015

It is proposed to organise a RHS Lily Group Trip to Turkey to see *Lilium* in the wild. This would be organised by Duncan Coombs and Chris Gardener.

So that we can have an idea of the level of interest in such a trip please complete this form and return to:

Duncan Coombs

"Holly Bank"
15 Minge Lane,
UPTON UPON SEVERN
Worcestershire
WR8 ONN.

dcoombs@warkscol.ac.uk

I/We would be interested in joining the RHS Lily Group trip to Turkey in June-July 2015.

Name

Address

Tel no:

Email:



Pat Huff receives the Lyttel Cup from Elizabeth Banks in honour of her work for the Lily Group



Holders of the Lyttel Cup - from the left, Harris Howland, Alisdair Aird, current holder Pat Huff, and Tim Whiteley with Elizabeth Banks



Richard Hyde and Harris Howland prepare to auction the 151 lots.

Photographs by Pontus Wallstén and Irene Hopton-Scott



Lily Group members at the Bulb Auction



Ruth Corless and six week old Ian - a future member perhaps at his first Bulb Auction?



Alan Trott's garden in New Zealand.

Photograph by Nuala Sterling



E.H.Wilson medal awarded to Bill Doren